



## WALMER TOWN COUNCIL

62 The Strand, Walmer, Deal, Kent, CT14 7DP

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Dated the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Amenities & Environment Committee: Cllr P Findley, Cllr P Jull, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr M Eddy, Cllr K Lee, Cllr D Richardson, Cllr M Simpson.

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of THE AMENITIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE to be held at 7pm, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at: Elizabeth House, St Mary's Road, Walmer.**

Roland Aldred

Town Clerk Walmer Town Council

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## AGENDA

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

To remind those present of the following: -

The right to record, film and to broadcast meetings of the council, committees and sub committees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014. This is in addition to the rights of the press and public to attend such meetings. While those attending meetings are deemed to have consented to the filming, recording, or broadcasting of meetings, those exercising the rights to film, record and broadcast must respect the rights of other people attending under the Data Protection Act 1998. Any person or organisation choosing to film, record or broadcast any meeting of the Council or a committee is responsible for any claims or other liability from them so doing.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be transacted on the agenda.

4. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** Attach 1  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.
5. **REPORTS ON MATTERS FROM LAST MEETING.**
6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Receive any questions from the public.
7. **HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**
- i. To receive a copy of the current Highways Improvement Plan. Attach 2
  - ii. To receive correspondence from Members of the public on road issues that may be added to the HIP and decide on whether these should be added. Attach 3
  - iii. Receive verbal information on the alleyway between Walmer Train Station and Court Road.
  - iv. Any other additions members wish to bring for discussion (these will need to be investigated between meetings and cannot be agreed to be added until they have been advertised on an agenda).
8. **STONEY PATH**  
To receive a verbal update on the Stoney Path project and decide on next actions.
9. **RUGBY CLUB**  
To receive a verbal report from Cllr L Ludwig on recent meetings with the Rugby Club including potential uses for the MUGA.
10. **WALMER STATION** Attach 4  
To receive a report on correspondence from a member of the public on the opening times of Walmer Train Station and decide if/what action Walmer Town Council should take.
11. **WATER TESTING KITS**  
To receive recommendations from the Climate Emergency Working Group on increasing the Budget for 2025/26 for water testing kits. Attach 5
12. **BIODIVERSITY GRANTS**  
To consider recommendations from CEWG on biodiversity grant applications from:
- i. Walmer and Deal Action for Swifts ENC 1
  - ii. Marke Wood Gardeners ENC 2
13. **ALLOTMENT PRICES**  
To receive recommendations and decide on charges of allotments for 2025/26. Attach 6
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
April 23 2025.



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**MINUTES**

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Amenity and Environment Committee held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 at 7pm at Elizabeth House, St Marys Road, Walmer.**

**Present Councillors:**

Cllr M Eddy (Chair), Cllr D Richardson, Cllr P Ludwig, Cllr S Waite-Gleave, Cllr R Blackwell, Cllr P Jull and Cllr L Ludwig (ex officio).

Roland Aldred –Town Clerk

**410. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lee, Simpson and Findley and were accepted.

**411. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY**

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the terms of various rights to record and transmit the transactions of the meeting under the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

**412. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations were made.

**413. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Members received the minutes of the committee meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**AGREED**

That the minutes are a true record and are approved.

Proposed by Cllr Waite-Gleave.

Seconded by Cllr Blackwell.

For 7

Against 0

Abstain 0

**414. REPORTS ON MATTERS FROM LAST MEETING**

Cllr L Ludwig reported that she has met with the appointed representatives of the Rugby Club. A recent e-mail has been received from the residents of the old church regarding parking issues and she will be picking these up with the Rugby Club.

**415. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

**416. HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- i. Members received a verbal update from the Clerk on the priority items on the HIP.
- ii. Members raised no new items for consideration for the HIP

**417. STONEY PATH**

Members received a written report from the Clerk updating them on the Stoney Path project progress.

**AGREED**

To move forward creating a wildflower meadow with a path all the way around the outside of the area. Later trees may be added once ownership is progressed.

Proposed – Cllr P Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr L Ludwig

For 7                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**418. NOISE AT THE MUGA**

Members received a written report as requested at the September meeting detailing the requirements and options in relation to noise of a MUGA.

**AGREED**

To ask Cllr L Ludwig to explore with the Rugby club possible uses of the MUGA.

Proposed – Cllr L Ludwig

Seconded – Cllr Waite-Gleave

For 7                      Against 0                      Abstain 0

**419. UK PROSPERITY FUND**

Members received a verbal report about the availability of funds for the UK Prosperity Fund.

**AGREED**

To contact the management of the fund and find out if there are funds available to support two water fountains on the toilets on the seafront.

Proposed – Cllr Eddy

Seconded – Cllr P Ludwig

For 6                      Against 1                      Abstain 0

The meeting closed at 19.45

**420. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Feb 26, 2025.

.....  
Signature

.....  
Date

HIGHWAYS			IMPROVEMENT PLAN			ACTION PLAN				KCC Priority no
PROJECT NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	REMEDY	ESTIMATED COST	FUNDING SOURCE	MANAGER	PROGRESS	Comments		
2	Jan-22	Speed Survey, Dover Road + 20 MPH Zones	As stated	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Speedwatch group formed and are collecting data		
7	N/A	Disability access dropped kerbs and tactile surfaces	Addition of dropped kerbs and tactile surfaces	TBA	HIP	KCC	TBA	Met with representatives from Deal Speaking up Group and reviewed curbs report passed to KCC. HIP Priority met with KCC who are reviewing case and funding for Dover road		
9	Nov-21	Cycle path to be extended along Wellington Parade Cycle Routes - Request to join cycle route 1 to the Skylark trail by adding cycle route along Granville Road	as stated	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	Question as to how this could be done given private road		
15	Jun-23		as stated	TBA	HIP	KCC	TBA	HIP Priority met with KCC who are reviewing case and funding. Changes required to initial plan		
16	Jun-23	Potholes Liverpool Road - Outside meadowside centre. Lighting required for safety of residents exiting premises on foot. No paving is present until Grams Road.	Repair work - long term road resurfacing	TBA	TBA	KCC	TBA	Continuous office are reporting these to KCC who are filling as required. Pothole blitz on North Barrack Road this month		
17	Sep-23		Signage	TBA	HIP	KCC	TBA	HIP Priority met with KCC who are reviewing case and funding. Walmer Castle has plans for additional parking for 2025; contacted KCC highways who are looking at options to rectify this. Picked up With KCC members who are pushing for a solution.		
18	Nov-23	Kingsdown Road - Outside of Walmer Castle parking restriction	Parking restrictions	TBA	KCC or KCC members	KCC - D Murphy and T Bond are picking this up	TBA			
19	Feb-24	Walking Route	WTC to set up a route and get signage	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	With Cllr Eddy		



New Items to be considered for HIP

1.

Location	Kingsdown Road, near Walmer Castle – Footpath entrance to the north of Castle entrance.
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Details of issue
Danger when crossing the road although signposted as 40mph cars may travel faster. Limited sightlines footpath continues on other side of the road joining the promenade. Member of public would like to see crossing installed for safety reasons.

Information from KCC or requirements
Crossing would require sightlines of minimum 80 metres from the Government guidance for any crossing due to blind bend to the south this would make a crossing impossible at the point of the pathway. When considering a crossing junctions have to be considered as a crossing may not be set close to a junction. All of this combined with a lack of accident data in the area means it is unlikely that a TRO would be issued. Spoke to KCC about this and reduction of speed limit is not an option, only option that they could suggest would be to add additional signage (already has a triangle warning for crossings) with wording that crossings are likely ahead.

Take forward to HIP	Yes	No
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2.

Location	Seafront from RNLI station southwards toward Walmer Castle .
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Details of issue
Lack of lighting on seafront.

Information from KCC or requirements
KCC and DDC have been contacted by the resident neither are willing to move forward with installing further lighting toward the castle. Currently the lighting installed is owned by DDC this was passed to them when they took over the green/seafront management. As a PROW KCC are responsible for providing lighting.

Take forward to HIP	Yes	No
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3.

Location	Salisbury Road out side of old Walmer Secondary school
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Details of issue
<p>Concern about parking, one the school is reopened as the Beacon School. Currently there are issues with parking as contractors have been parking on the roads. Resident is concerned about the parking on the road once the school has been completed as well as the increase in traffic in peak times. Resident requested a parking permit scheme.</p>

Information from KCC or requirements
<p>In the planning application a specialist company was contracted to complete a survey of the highway. The result of this is that as a specialist school there is likely to be less foot traffic from the school with more travel by car and bus, the new designs include a pick up lane inside the grounds for buses and cars to collect pupils. The review of projected traffic indicated that due to the smaller size of the school there was a lower, than when previously a school, level of traffic expected. Double yellow lines have been inspected by DDC and are acceptable, KCC have inspected other road markings. KCC have indicated that they are not willing to put any further double yellow lines down at this point as the survey indicates that this is not required. DDC have refused a permit scheme as the majority of houses already have off road parking.</p>

Take forward to HIP	Yes	No
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4.

Location	Canada Road section nearest the beach on the small triangle
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Details of issue
<p>Lack of disabled specific parking. Resident was enquiring about allocating disabled spaces on the triangle part of Canada Road, this is specifically due to disabled members of the sailing club having issues with parking near the club.</p>

Information from KCC or requirements
<p>KCC and DDC have been contacted by the resident both sent the resident to the other authority. Put resident in touch with the Joint transport board who would look at items such as this. We are aware of limited parking for residents in this area of Walmer.</p>

Take forward to HIP	Yes	No
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5.

Location	Dover Road Upper Walmer
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Details of issue
Speeding cars coming down the hill. Pavements are narrow and trucks coming along Dover Road which are wider, risking wing mirrors clipping pedestrians. Resident is interested in making this a 20mph zone. Wingham has just had a 20mph zone set up on the main road to Canterbury.

Information from KCC or requirements
Kent police state that any 20mph zone should be self policing, Wingham were able to set the 20mph zone in part because the average speed was already below 30mph due to the layout of the road, any attempt to secure a 20mph zone would likely require more work than just signage to make it acceptable to KCC. Cllr Grist is working with a group of residents from Dover Road to gauge public opinion. Speedwatch has been active in the area however there are minimal records of speeding. Speed cameras are unlikely to be granted with Government Guidance stating that for a fixed speed camera site over a 36 month period a 3 incidents of serious injury would need reporting. Currently on the crash map there is only one report and that is down by the Thompson Bell.

Take forward to HIP	Yes	No
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6.

Location	James Hall Gardens
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Details of issue
Cars parking on the junction (see below), residents write of concern having to creep in to Downs Road from the Junction with James Hall Gardens due to parked cars limiting sightlines.

Information from KCC or requirements
Rule 250 of the highway code states cars may not park within 10m (32 ft) of a junction, this while not a must not rule can lead to a non endorsable penalty if it is considered to be causing an obstruction to the sight lines of pedestrians or drivers. Parking in the area is limited and particularly during school opening closing is insufficient for the number of cars. In both cases in the photos the car on the junction is not the issue to the sightlines but it is the next car along meaning the yellow lines would need to go on to Downs Road to allow sightlines to improve. Dover District Council have been contacted and with no road markings these are currently unenforceable. DDC suggestion would be to take these as far as Hershall Road west and similar distance in the other direction. This would lose approximately 3 spaces on either side of the road and 1 or 2 on James Hall Gardens

Take forward to HIP	Yes	No
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James hall gardens photos





**Item: Walmer Station.**

**Date: 13/2/25.**

**Meeting: February 2025 Amenities and Environment.**

**From: Roland Aldred.**

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The council received correspondence from a member of the public about the opening times of Walmer Train Station and the lack of facilities open throughout the day.

The stations themselves are owned by network rail but operated by the regional service provider in this case Southeastern. Both Southeastern and Network rail are controlled by the Department of Transport. Southeastern were moved to be under Government control in 2017, following failures on the part of the previous franchisee, as an operator of last resort.

Walmer Station is not located in the busiest part of Walmer and as such there are minimal facilities locally. The member of the public's complaint about the station is the lack of toilet facilities and the exposure to the weather when the station is closed (station is open 6.30am-11.00am Mon-Sat). The station was locked outside of these hours in 2001 following vandalism to the station. The nearest public toilets would be either Marke Wood or Granville Road which is approximately a 20 min walk. There is a Café or Pub some 10 minutes away on Dover Road which if open will have Toilets and refreshments, this requires accurate information as to when delayed trains will arrive to be able to make use of.

The Member of public refers to a station in Hollingbourne where the local council have been able to assist in keeping the station open, this was a grant to a local who set up a business within the station, we at this time have had no requests for such grants.

It should be noted that approximately 2 years ago Southeastern were looking to permanently close the ticket office at Walmer Station but government intervention prevented this.

#### Options

1. Write to the Department of Transport and Southeastern appealing for extended opening hours or alternative arrangements to be made for toilet provision.
2. Note the report with no action.



Item: Water testing Kits.

Date: 13/02/25.

Meeting: Amenities and Environment Feb 2025.

From: Roland Aldred.

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The January meeting of the Climate Emergency Working Group reviewed available Water testing kits. It was previously agreed as part of the budget agreement to allocate £500 toward purchase of water testing kits for use on sea at Walmer.

Following a review of available kits, a suitable kit that was accredited was selected. The cost of these kits would be £840, therefore the Climate Emergency working Group recommends increasing the 2025/26 budget for Water Testing Kits from £500 to £840 with the additional £340 coming from unallocated reserves.

Recommendation of CEWG

To increase the budget to £840.

Options

1. To recommend increase in budget to £840 to Full Council.
2. To make no changes and request that Climate Emergency Working Group seek an alternative solution within the £500 set budget.

*Members to decide*



Item: Allotment pricing.

Date: 12/02/25.

Meeting: Amenities and Environment Feb 2025.

From: Roland Aldred.

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Current wait list is: 22

Current occupancy: 100%

Cost of allotments 2024/25: £2255.16 (estimated expected cost)

Income: £2640 (projected)

Further work on the fencing on the side of the bank Campbell road side is likely to need to be completed in the next few years due to erosion. Work to clear the wall of ivy will need to be regularly carried out

Two years ago Walmer Town Council amended the pricing to be inline with Deal Town Council. Previously allotments were set as either large or small and a fixed price was allocated to the size, under the new pricing a price per meter was set and all allotments were re-measured and priced accordingly.

Last year prices were 48p per meter in line with the cost of Deal Town Councils allotments. Deal Town Council is holding it's pricing for 2025/26.

We also offer for £5 per year membership to the SWCAA for £5 per year (cost price) with this allotment holders are given membership to the SWCAA who are a national support group who offer advice, provide a quarterly newsletter and include insurance of the plot.

#### Recommendation

To hold the pricing for the allotments for the 2025/26 year.

*Members to decide*